

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01767 170756Z

ACTION EA-09

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NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 DIMPTD

TAGS: PINT TXIO CH

SUBJ: TENG HSIAO-PING'S CONVERSATION WITH DR. NIU MAN-CHIANG

1. SUMMARY. DR. NIU MAN-CHIANG HAS PASSED ON TO USLO SOME POINTS FROM HIS AUGUST 16 TALK WITH TENG TSIAO-PING. TENG TOLD NIU THAT HE WAS IN CHARGE OF TWO THINGS: SCIENCE AND THE MILITARY. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. NIU MAN-CHIANG TOLD USLO OFFICER AUGUST 16 OF HIS TWO-HOUR CONVERSATION EARLIER THAT DAY WITH TENG HSIAO-PING. NIU SAID THAT TENG WAS IN EXCELLENT PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITION. FANG YI, DE FACTO HEAD OF THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, AND MRS. NIU ALSO ATTENDED THE CONVERSATION.

3. NIU SAID THAT TENG STARTED OUT BY TELLING HIM "I AM IN CHARGE OF TWO THINGS: SCIENCE AND THE MILITARY." IN SPITE OF THIS, TENG KEPT RETURNING TO ECONOMIC MATTERS, SPECIFICALLY TO CHINA'S PROBLEM IN FEEDING ITS GROWING POPULATION. NIU SAID HE HAD TWO ARGUMENTS WITH TENG ON THE SOLUTION TO THE FOOD-POPULATION PROBLEM. TENG SAID THAT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PEKING 01767 170756Z

CHINA NEEDED AN ABSOLUTE REDUCTION IN POPULATION, AND THAT RESTRICTING BIRTHS TO ONE PER FAMILY WAS THE BEST WAY TO DO IT. NIU THOUGHT THAT THIS SOLUTION WAS TOO DRASTIC AND THAT RESTRICTING BIRTHS TO TWO PER FAMILY WOULD HAVE THE DESIRED EFFECT.

4. TENG SAID THAT A PRINCIPAL USE OF SCIENCE IN CHINA SHOULD BE TO ENABLE CHINA TO GROW MORE FOOD. NIU SAID THAT HE TOLD TENG THAT WHAT CHINA REALLY NEEDED WAS TO GROW BETTER QUALITY FOOD, FOR EXAMPLE, TO INCREASE THE PROTEIN CONTENT OF RICE OR CORN TO GIVE CHINESE A BETTER DIET. HE EXPLAINED THE TECHNIQUES HE HAS BEEN USING TO CHANGE GOLDFISH GENETICS SHOULD BE APPLICABLE TO USE IN PLANTS THROUGH POLLEN CULTIVATION TECHNIQUES WHICH ARE ALREADY BEING DEVELOPED IN CHINA. NIU SAID THAT TENG IMMEDIATELY GRASPED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS IDEA AND CONSIDERED GENETIC IMPROVEMENT OF PLANT STRAINS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. HE THEN JOKINGLY ASKED, "DO YOU THINK YOU COULD DEVELOP SOMETHING THAT WOULD LET ME WORK FOR TWENTY MORE YEARS?" NIU SAID THAT ALL HE COULD OFFER NOW WAS ADVICE FOR TENG NOT TO SMOKE SO MUCH.

5. TENG ASKED WHAT NIU NEEDED FOR HIS RESEARCH AND OFFERED TO SUPPLY WHATEVER IT WAS. NIU SAID THAT FANG YI WAS VERY PLEASED TO GET SUCH SUPPORT FROM THE TOP. TENG THANKED NIU FOR COMING TO CHINA TO WORK, SAYING THAT HE MUST BE LEAVING BEHIND MANY COMFORTS IN THE U.S.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 PEKING 01767 170756Z

AND SCIENTIFIC WORK WAS MUCH EASIER THERE. TENG ASKED IF THERE WERE ANYTHING LACKING IN HIS RESEARCH. NIU SAID THAT HE REPLIED THAT WHAT HE NEEDS MOST IS A GOOD SUPPLY OF COLLEGE GRADUATES COMING INTO RESEARCH WORK, WHICH WAS THE TRUE SUPERIORITY OF THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC SYSTEM, I.E., THAT ANY STUDENT WHO REALLY WANTED TO COULD GET A COLLEGE EDUCATION. HE HOPED THAT CHINA COULD DO THE SAME THING. NIU ADDED (WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE INFORMATION CAME FROM TENG) THAT EVEN IF THIRTY PERCENT OF THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WENT TO COLLEGE, THIS WOULD STILL BE A PITIFULLY SMALL NUMBER. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THAT CHINESE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES COULD ABSORB NO MORE THAN FIVE OR SIX PERCENT OF EVEN THIS SMALL NUMBER. TENG CLOSED BY SAYING THAT HE WAS SORRY HE WAS UNABLE TO SEEDR. NIU IN 1976, BUT HOPED TO SEE MORE OF HIM IN THE FUTURE.

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